

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 17, 2014
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Parker, Nelson Almeida, David Andrade,
Michael Brady, Gary Sagar

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

Chairman Parker opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anyone recording the meeting must notify the Chair. The Board of Selectmen is recording both audio and video.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Sagar announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Property Tax Work-Off Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Snow plow vendors and replacement drivers with CDL are needed.

Chairman Parker advised the Town Moderator is looking for members to the by-law study committee.

Ms. Rogers advised she has a talent bank form for the Energy Committee and that appointment will be at the next meeting. There is also a talent bank form for the Cultural Council. Talent bank forms are available at Town Hall or on the website.

At this time, Mr. Cadime thanked the Board and the citizens of Seekonk for their patience and understanding as he ran for mayor of the City of Fall River. He is committed to Seekonk. When interviewed for the position, he said the quality of life in Seekonk is second to none. He thanked the Board for understanding that he grew up in Fall River, and he felt he could impact the city's direction as it went through difficult times. He expressed his sincere gratitude for their patience and well wishes.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider and Appoint Denise Prive as Kennel Worker for Animal Control

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Alexander and Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall did the interviews. He recommended the appointment.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Denise Prive as kennel worker.

LICENSE RENEWALS

Alcohol

Ms. Rogers explained she did not get a renewal for Lums which is closed. They have until December 31, 2014 to transfer that license.

Mr. Cadime advised that West Winds had a Board of Health violation. The outcome was a nine-month probationary period. If there is any critical incident, the Board of Health will shut them down for a year.

Mr. Sagar said there are two distinct and separate regulatory functions. He is fine with renewing the license.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

VOTED: To approve the liquor licenses, except for Lums, with stipulations (see attached).

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Abstained on Bristol County Stadium. Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye. Chairman Parker – Aye; Abstained on The Grist Mill.

Class I, II, III Motor Vehicle

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Class I, II, and III motor vehicle licenses, with stipulations (see attached).

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida said there were questions on the number of cars at the Sunoco station on Fall River Avenue.

Ms. Rogers said the Building Commissioner had checked and it is in compliance.

Entertainment

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was

VOTED: To approve entertainment licenses, with stipulations (see attached).

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Abstained on Bristol County Stadium.

Amusement Machines

Ms. Rogers advised that after the first of year the zoning enforcement officer and she will visit all establishments to make sure all machines are licensed. One facility had to remove a machine.

Mr. Sager felt it should be the police.

Mr. Brady noted it is not a police issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve licenses for amusement machines (see attached).

Sunday Entertainment

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Sunday Entertainment licenses (see attached).

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Abstained on Bristol County Stadium. Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Selectmen's Budget Priorities

Mr. Sagar had a list of priorities which included: provide sufficient resources for 24/7 staffing for advanced life support rescue at the Banna Fire Station. That is underway. To provide sufficient resources for two dispatchers on duty 24/7. Mr. Campbell is working on it. Complete all building projects. Banna Fire Station completed, senior center underway and move forward with the animal shelter. GATRA is looking to do its transportation plan and the Human Services Council wants to bring back the busing for seniors. He suggested they prepare a plan and share with the Town Administrator. He would like to meet with GATRA representatives at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. He noted that it doesn't appear that Seekonk is getting its share of the \$95,000 contribution made to GATRA. Review with the building commissioner/zoning enforcement officer about adequate staffing and if there are any monies to provide staffing for the subcommittee appointed to work with the School Department, such as secretarial. Potential fire station in the south end. Review of recreational fees, especially use of facilities by residents.

He would like to expand cameras throughout the facilities especially recreational facilities and the recycling center. It can be done through the School Department. He would like to see expanded hours at the recycling center. Eliminate the taxes on farm animals and farm equipment. It's an old tax that only brings in \$2,000.

December 17, 2014

-4-

Mr. Brady would be looking for a full time recreation director. Also, to maintain all current staffing, especially with the mid-year cuts being proposed before the new governor takes over.

Chairman Parker agreed with the full time recreation director. As a capital item, he would like to have a computer study for police and fire and Town Hall.

Mr. Almeida agreed with the above. He would like to see an assistant for the Veterans Agent. He felt Town Hall could be reorganization to make room for another person.

Mr. Brady said he would like to see numbers to justify that.

Mr. Andrade asked for a full breakdown of what goes into the budget every year and if they are meeting the rule of thumb of how much should be put in for maintenance and capital improvements.

Mr. Cadime said it varies from town to town. Stabilization budgets are usually 5% to 10%. They are meeting that.

As a Board, they need to see what they want as a threshold, how much is spent on capital improvements, and what they want in that fund for capital improvements.

Mr. Andrade felt they need to focus on consolidation between town and schools.

Mr. Sagar wanted a five-year history of how the \$1.5 and \$2 million dollar surpluses are created.

Mr. Cadime explained that he would break the budget down this year to make sure it is balanced.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Contract with Brewster Thornton Group Architects, LLP for Architectural Design Services for the Senior Center

Mr. Andrade abstained and left the room

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Bowden and he discussed with representatives of the firm what the scope of services would be from the RFQ submitted. They are very comfortable with the fees at \$135,260.00.

The contract is an AIA standard contract between owner and architect.

Mr. Parker noted that the Board had given him permission to sign the contract as Chairman so that the firm could start work. When he found out that wasn't going to happen right away, he decided to allow Board members the opportunity to review the contract. He recommended they move forward so that the architect can begin the planning process.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To approve and execute the contract with Brewster Thorton Group Architects, LLP for architectural design services for the senior center.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. Andrade recused himself.

Sign P & S for Bittersweet Drive

Mr. Cadime advised the Conservation Commission had signed off.

He recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the purchase and sale agreement for Bittersweet Drive.

Discussion and Vote on Town Hall Hours for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays and Next Board of Selectmen Meeting

Mr. Cadime noted that Christmas Eve is a half day. New Year's Eve is not. Employees would like to stay closed on the Friday after Christmas. Individuals would take a personal or vacation day. Town Hall would be closed, but those who wanted to work could come in and catch up on paperwork.

Mr. Brady was not comfortable with that. He noted that Town Hall is a public building. If there are employees in the building, they have got to let residents in. He questioned why everyone wouldn't take a vacation day. He didn't have a problem with closing at 4:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was

VOTED: To close Town Hall on the Friday after Christmas if all employees take vacation time. If not, Town Hall would open regular hours on that day and time off granted as per the Town Administrator. Town Hall will close at 4:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye. Chairman Parker recused himself.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 19, 2014

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of November 19, 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting

Chairman Parker announced that Town Planner John Hansen had resigned to accept a similar position in Dartmouth, MA.

Mr. Cadime read Mr. Hansen's letter of resignation.

Chairman Parker advised the replacement of the Town Planner falls under the Planning Board.

Mr. Brady asked if Planning is budgeted for advertising.

Mr. Cadime wasn't sure if there is an advertising line item. There will also be payouts as Mr. Hansen leaves.

He said that Town Meeting authorized the purchased of a Rosenbauer ladder truck for the Fire Department in the amount of \$777,000. Chief Healy wasn't satisfied with the Rosenbauer vehicle. He looked for a vehicle under E One, which is on the state bid list. It would save time without going through the bid process. A similar vehicle was brought down a few weeks ago for the Chief to look at. The cost is \$727,000. The first year's payment will be \$110,000. He asked for authorization to sign the contract and he would bring it before the Board for ratification. This would avoid a higher price in 2015. They will be using the same lease company used for the DPW vehicle. If payment is made within twenty days of signing the contract, the Town will save an additional \$25,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the town administrator to sign the contract.

Mr. Brady commended Mr. Cadime and Chief Healy.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar advised that Banna Fire Station was dedicated on Sunday, December 14. The turnout exceeded expectations and showed the support for the Fire Department.

A meeting will be held on Thursday at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at Town Hall with representatives of MassDevelopment and DEP to talk about 36 Maple Avenue.

He would like to have GATRA on the agenda for a January meeting.

Mr. Almeida thought the bank had taken over the 36 Maple Avenue property.

Mr. Brady said there is no estate. It seems like no one wants to touch it.

Mr. Andrade stated that he attended the Bristol County Commissioners meeting last week. They reviewed the budget. He was surprised to see the very high rating that Bristol Aggie has. They have a building committee and they are growing.

Mr. Sagar said the tuition is more than Tri County.

Mr. Brady said he was surprised at how many students from Seekonk attend and how much the Town is paying for tuition.

Mr. Andrade noted that he is unable to attend various meetings during the day because of his work schedule. He asked those who do attend to prepare a report to keep the Board updated.

He would like the Energy Committee to look into an alternative energy supplier.

Mr. Sagar said there is one for electric.

Chairman Parker inquired as to when the tenants would move out of the proposed senior center building.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Alexander has checked on relocation specialists in the area. He will verify with Kopelman and Paige. They are basically moving companies.

Chairman Parker asked if relocation costs would be paid by the building committee.

Mr. Cadime felt money might be available. Letters to tenants should go out this week. They have 120 days to move out.

Mr. Sagar wanted to see the Mass. Gen. Laws chapter and section which referred to relocation. He is very disappointed that Kopelman & Paige did not advise of this going into it.

December 17, 2014

-8-

Mr. Andrade noted that the Board posed the question about the tenants.

Mr. Sagar said that, prior to buying the building, all tenants signed documents that they are tenants at will.

Mr. Brady advised that a member of the Bristol County Mosquito Control indicated the Town had not sign the agreement. He asked that Mr. Cadime check with the Board of Health.

Mr. Andrade said they are very cooperative. They have a great program.

Board members extended best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. McLintock thanked the Board for signing the architect's contract for the senior center. He saw about ten or fifteen cars in the parking lot over there tonight. He suggested a realtor could help with relocation instead of Kopelman & Paige.

Mr. David Bowden also thanked for Board for signing the contract. It was endorsed in October and negotiated in November and they should have been in there in November. He has dates for January so the project is on the move.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Bowden and members of the building committee for keeping the Board up to date.

Chairman Parker said he can't imagine a building committee with bigger smiles when that ribbon is cut for the senior center. This projects goes back so many years.

Mr. Bowden said it should be about this time next year.

He noted that Mr. Andrade's firm was #2. It was about money.

At 6:01 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of November 19, 2014, to discuss purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property with respect to the senior center as per M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23(6), to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property with respect to Old Town Hall as per M. G. L. Chapter 39, Section 23(6), and to discuss collective bargaining agreements per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3); not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye. He will not participate in collective bargaining.

December 17, 2014

-9-

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary